

Educational Policies Committee January 19, 2010

- 1. Running Records Update** – A focus group to look at Running Records is being set up. Lise Charlebois and Micheline have gone through the names of teachers who were interested in being part of this group, and will contact them. The group will also involve administrators and consultants. Hopefully, the first meeting will take place on February 3rd.

- 2. High School Exam Schedule** – A concern was raised about the timing of exams, and the LES's need to be written. Bob Mills and Viviane Croubalian will be discussing the problem at a meeting with the Directors General of the 9 English school boards and Leo LaFrance. There are also other concerns with other exams, particularly in English (Gr. 11). According to Michael Chechile (new Director, Educational Services), changes are being made to this exam. "Talk" is withdrawn from the official exam – evaluation will occur during teaching periods. "Reading" will be part of the preparatory schedule. Production replaces "Media and Writing". Media is removed from official exam. Evaluation will occur during teaching time. Obviously, more information is needed, and will be sent to teachers as soon as it is available.

- 3. Elementary School Exam Schedule** – The Ministry is no longer providing funding for release days for familiarization days or marking days. They have also not yet given dates for the English exams, but ESD is hoping they will arrive by April 23. ESD has proposed the following, and PTU agreed to it:
 - April 23 – familiarization for all Math (Gr. 5, 4 and 2 – mandatory, Gr. 3-Board highly recommended) and French (Gr. 6, 4) exams.
 - May 21 to be used for marking these exams.
 - Gr. 6 English – ESD will release teachers for 1 marking day, and will use May 21 for the other. This is the day for in-school Special Needs Committees to meet. Schools can then request ½ day release for teachers on the Special Needs Committee to meet on a day of their choosing.

- 4. Major School Change** – Cycle 1 High School – the expectation is to move to 50% French over time. The Board and the Union will be meeting to look at categories, what is possible to be taught in French, etc.